



## Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta 2023 – Final Event Numbers

**Final Numbers:** Following are the official numbers for the 51<sup>st</sup> Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta held October 7-15, 2023.

- Total number of registered hot air balloons: 546
- Total number of registered special shape balloons: 107 (12 new to Balloon Fiesta)
- Total number of registered pilots (primary and additional): 629
- Total number of Gordon Bennett Gas Race teams: 17
- Total number of remote-control balloons: 75
- Total number of estimated guest visits: 968,516
- Total number of media organizations: 142
- Total number of registered media representatives: 836
- Total number of views on Balloon Fiesta Live: 771,631
- Total Number of sensory relief bags provided by KultureCity™ at Balloon Fiesta: 252
- Total number of KultureCity™ Sensory Activation Vehicle uses at Balloon Fiesta: 208

**Total numbers of countries represented (registered pilots and Gordon Bennett):** 16 – Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States

**Event Sessions:** Two of the 14 sessions were canceled due to poor weather conditions (10/12 evening and 10/15 morning) and one was counted as a rain check event, with tickets allowed for re-use during the 51<sup>st</sup> Balloon Fiesta (10/12 evening).

**Gordon Bennett:** Of the 17 teams, 16 launched from Balloon Fiesta Park on Saturday, October 7 at 8:30 p.m. MT. Winners of the race were France team two, piloted by Eric Decellieres and Benoit Havret, who traveled 2,661.40 kilometers before landing in Jacksonville, North Carolina.

**Balloon Competition Winners:** The first prize in the hot air overall competition was awarded to David Strasmann of Switzerland. Second overall highest score went to Joe Heartsill of Texas and third to Tomas Hora of the Czech Republic.

**Remote Control Balloons** - On Wednesday, October 11, Balloon Fiesta set a new world record for the number of remote-controlled balloons in the air at one time, with 58 Remote Control balloons remaining in the air for at least 10 minutes.

**Navigators:** 1,134 Navigators volunteered during this year's event. Navigators (not including chase crew) are volunteers who provide guest services, administrative services, balloon coordination and safety, set-up and logistics, and more in over 40 different areas.

Additional information about the 2023 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta can be found at [www.balloonfiesta.com](http://www.balloonfiesta.com). The 52<sup>nd</sup> Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta will be held October 5-13, 2024.